

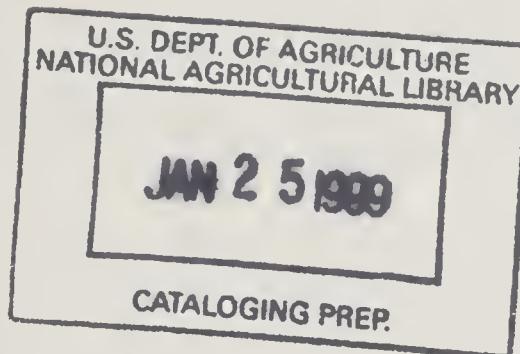
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David M. Webb



APRIL, 1975

A SUMMARY OF CURRENT LAND USE PLANNING ACTIVITIES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOREST SERVICE
STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY SOUTHEASTERN AREA

WHAT FORESTERS ARE DOING IN LAND USE PLANNING

Generally speaking, many planning efforts indicate gaps in the incorporation of forestry and other natural resource data into the planning process.

Planning at the state and local levels, by various agencies, has been active for a number of years. Although these agencies are doing land use and comprehensive planning, many are oriented toward a single functional purpose such as, transportation, industrial growth, manpower training and public health. In addition, their major interests were and still are, for the most part, directed toward urban oriented problems.

Rural and forest lands and their resources have not been given full consideration in their uses, values and productivity in meeting local, regional and national needs. However, their value in meeting urban generated needs such as housing, industrial sites, recreational areas, etc. has been emphasized. In many instances, forest and agricultural lands have been referred to as vacant land that is developable or undevelopable for urban purposes. As a result, the forest land base is continually diminishing or being constrained without interdisciplinary action in the development of alternative solutions. Very seldom have lands been classified to assure their availability for forest management.

Some resource agencies have not been actively involved in local planning efforts. Participation has generally been limited to providing basic resource inventory data. In fact, many state

and substate planning organizations feel this is the only role the state forestry and resource agencies have in the planning process. State Foresters are recognizing that they can be one of the real beneficiaries of land use planning.

It was in recognition of: the continual attrition of forest land base, state and federal legislative directions, and the need for forestry expertise to be fully involved in the land use planning process, which precipitated the development of three projects to involve foresters and forestry values in the planning process. Two of these projects are in Alabama and one in Florida. All three projects are cooperative efforts between the State Forest Services and the U. S. Forest Service. An overview of these projects follows:

The Alabama projects are directed towards developing a forest resource analysis for the state and the substate planning levels. The State Forester has assigned a forester to the Alabama Development Office (ADO) for the state level project and another forester to the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG) for the substate level project.

1. Alabama Statewide Forest Resource Analysis

Alabama has determined that in order to ensure a high quality of life for all citizens, a planning program which places state and local governments in a position to provide guidance and information should be used. To meet one facet of this objective, an analysis of the forest resource is required. Forest lands and the related resources are of paramount importance to the state in its planning and development efforts. An analysis of the forest lands and the related resources is basic to forestry involvement in land use planning. Alabama possesses much and varied information and data concerning its forest resource, however, a focal point which will provide land use planning direction is lacking. The product of this project will be a report which will not be a completed plan, but which will serve as a vehicle to initiate a forest resource planning program which provides data, direction and information for considering the alternative uses of the state's land resource base.

Project Objectives:

Provide the State Forester and Alabama Development Office and others with forest resource data and evaluations relevant to the development of state and local objectives, goals, policies, and provide a base for overall resource planning.

Demonstrate-

- Forester and forestry involvement in the land use planning process.
- The effectiveness of the forest resource analysis in providing input to state level land use planning process.
- The methods, technology, disciplines used in the development of a forest resource analysis.
- The applicability of current forest resource information and data.

Analyze-

- New methods and technology being used by other planners for application in forest land planning.
- The need for spatial display of forest land data.
- Types, kinds and formats of data; amounts, training and types of specialists needed to develop a state level forest resource analysis.
- Type of resource direction to provide to substate units from the state level.
- Measures needed to implement and evaluate the forestry portions of land use plans.

2. Alabama Substate Project With the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments (TARCOG)

The objectives of this project are essentially the same as the state level project except it is directed to the substate level (TARCOG).

The following statements are a summary of the major forest resource areas to be inventoried and a brief indication of the depth of analysis. Data is being collected by counties and will be assembled into one report for TARCOG. The analyses, projections and assumptions will be consistent with land capabilities. Wise resource use and environmental protection factors will also be considered.

--Soil and Water

Provide guidelines which should be followed to ensure forest land management activities which are carried out will meet state environmental quality standards.

Identify areas of forest land which serve as ground-water recharge areas.

Identify forest lands which may be suitable for spray effluents areas.

--Forest based recreation

Identify forest land areas which may be developed to provide a broad spectrum of recreation use and experiences to the people of TARCOP.

--Wildlife

Considering the forest lands of TARCOP, as a whole, along with the individual landowners' desires, promote the development of a pattern of wildlife habitats which will encourage desirable wildlife populations.

--Timber

Identify a pattern of timber resources that will best meet current and future needs of the owners, TARCOP, and Alabama, which is consistent with the principle of multiple uses.

Identify possible new markets and determine if opportunities exist to increase the degree of utilization in the production of existing forest products.

--Forage

Determine and identify areas suitable to domestic livestock grazing of forest lands.

--Environmental Protection

Provide TARCOP with guides, relating to forest lands, to serve as a basis for program development, coordination and restoration which may protect and enhance environmental quality.

--Environmental Education

Identify potential sites and opportunities for conducting environmental education programs, on forest lands, which may be developed by TARCOG, the counties or others.

--Landscape management

Provide an inventory and suggested management guides for those areas that have aesthetic attributes which should receive special attention or management consideration.

--Special Areas

Identify areas which are classified under state or federal standards as "critical", "scenic or wild", etc. areas.

--Fire Management

Give an analysis and guidelines which should be followed to obtain effective fire protection for rural areas and second home developments, etc. which are in forest lands.

--Social and economic

Relate forest lands and the related resources' social and economic values in terms of dollars, numbers of jobs, multiplier effects, etc.

--Transportation

Provide TARCOG and the counties with information useful for developing transportation systems that will meet the needs for management, protection, development and utilization of forest resources. Considering items such as: noise, load limits, access, drainage, etc.

--Landownership

Recognizing the rights of the private individual, identify lands, regulations, ordinances, etc. for those areas which should be protected or would better serve public needs by public ownership:

--Natural Hazards

Identify natural hazards such as: insect, disease, ice, storm, wind, etc. to determine problems, extent, nature, trends and the needed protection or control measures.

--Minerals

Identify those areas which are underlain by strippable minerals and those areas which should be rehabilitated. Provide background information of the impact, on the forest resource, by planned mineral removals.

The state level report will be completed this July. The TARCOG Report will be completed in June, 1976. Detailed study plans for these two projects are available on request from:

Jim Wells
U. S. Forest Service
1720 Peachtree St., N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

The results of these projects may be used:

- As an example for others to use in their land use planning of natural resources.
- As a basis to train others in the involvement of foresters and natural resources in land use planning.
- To create an awareness within the forestry profession to become involved in the development of sound, comprehensive land use, local and state resource planning efforts.

3. Florida State-Wide Forest Land Use Classification System

This project is a cooperative effort between the Florida Division of Forestry and the U. S. Forest Service. It involves using the latest remote sensor and computer techniques to inventory the total forest lands in the state. The inventory involves coordination with the State Division of Planning, USGS, SCS, Florida Department of Transportation, National Forest in Florida, Florida Fish and Game Commission, and Florida State University. This forest land inventory will also give a generalized suitability rating of the forest resources, i.e., watershed, forage, timber, wildlife and recreation.

Additionally, the project will provide the forestry portion of Florida's Comprehensive Land Use Plan as called for in the Florida State Comprehensive Planning Act of 1972. The overall objective of this program, for which the forestry input will be provided, is to conduct a state-wide inventory of all natural resources and determine their relative interaction with one another. Foresters employed by the State Division of Forestry will ground check and interpret forest cover types to assess environmental forestry values. The evaluation contemplated under this inventory is to analyze and classify forests as a broadly based biological system capable of furnishing many interrelated needs under a multiple use concept.

Using USGS's "Land Use Classification System for Use With Remote-Sensor Data" overlays, SCS soil association overlays and data as basic working tools, the inventory will start in April. The overlays and basic maps are at a 1:250,000 scale. Soil associations are being computerized by a Calma two-axis digitizer. Using criteria for forest land production levels, developed by Florida agencies and the U. S. Forest Service, areas will be classified by computer. These classifications will give generalized information for wildlife habitat, watershed, timber, recreation and forage. Field checks will verify the production levels and area classifications.

A report on the project accomplishments will be made in July, 1976. The report will document:

- (1) Means, criteria, methods, etc. of reflecting forests values and their interaction with other land values.
- (2) Value of the photogrammetric and ground checking techniques employed on the project to delineate forest values.

- (3) Opportunity this system provides in developing land use planning information for making decisions on future development.
 - (4) Opportunity this type of project approach provides in establishing the framework for local community planning to be conducted in the future under the Florida Local Communities Comprehensive Planning Act.
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FEDERAL LAND USE LEGISLATION

Federal land use planning legislation is active in Congress once again. On February 20, Representative Udall introduced a bill (HR 3510) as the "Land Use and Resources Conservation Act." Senator Jackson presented a bill (S.984), "The Land Resource Planning Assistance Act" last month. A comparison of these bills is:

H.R.3510 (Udall)

Encourages states to establish means for resolving major land resource use decisions which impact more than one local government; requires consistency of Federal actions with state land program.

S.984 (Jackson)

Encourages states to establish means for resolving major land resource use decisions which impact more than one local government; requires consistency of Federal actions with state land program. In addition, encourages expeditious energy siting decisions by states.

Requires creation of a state land use planning agency and an intergovernmental advisory council.

Requires creation of a state land planning agency (establish by law).

Requires states to inventory land and water resources; multi-disciplinary data acquisitor.

Includes all-encompassing inventory requirements.

<u>H.R.3510 (Udall)</u>	<u>S.984 (Jackson)</u>
Requires designation of natural/cultural areas of critical state concern.	Requires designation of natural/historic lands; key facilities; large-scale development; land sales; energy facilities; prime agriculture land.
Requires regulation of natural/cultural areas of critical state concern; procedures to guide land use of or around key facilities.	Requires regulation of all designated areas.
Provides procedures and grants to simplify and expedite government decisions on major siting issues.	None
Requires (1) local government implementation subject to state standards and review; (2) direct state management; or (3) combination of above.	Same
Sets limit of no more than three development grants for implementing approved program.	Set limit of no more than five development grants for implementing approved program.
Establishes a 6 yr./\$500 million program; \$50; 75; 75; 100; 100; 100.	Establishes an 8 yr./\$800 million program.
Designates Interior as lead agency with mandate for interagency consultation.	Designates Interior as lead agency with interagency land resource advisory board. Also, FEA approval of state energy planning process.



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H.R.3510 (Udall)S.984 (Jackson)

Establishes Federal review of process only; no substantive policy, or regulatory involvement.

Same

Federal actions on non-Federal land significantly impacting approved state program must be consistent.

Same

Calls for public lands inventory and assessment; develop comprehensive land use plans which consider state programs.

None

Authorizes no Federal involvement in state/local decision; nothing to enhance/diminish private property rights.

Same

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